

University of Utah Laboratory Safety Update

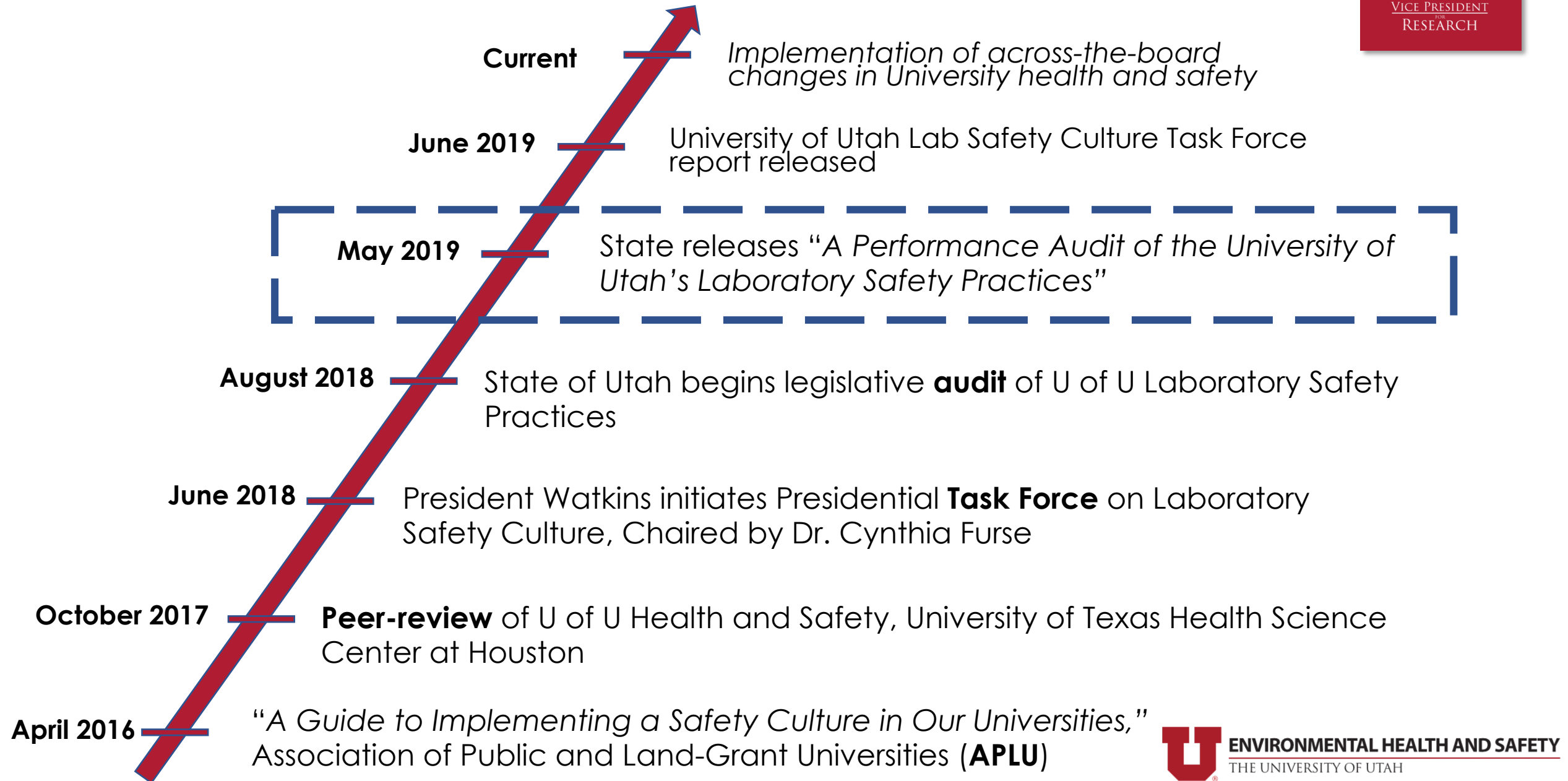
Andrew Weyrich, Vice President for Research
Frederick Monette, Director EHS

October 15, 2019

First and foremost, I want to assure you that all of us – administrators, faculty and staff – are committed to making the University a safe place for everyone.

Dr. Ruth V. Watkins, President
Response to State Legislative Audit Report
May 3, 2019

How did we get here?



Develop, promote, and nurture a ***CULTURE* of SAFETY***

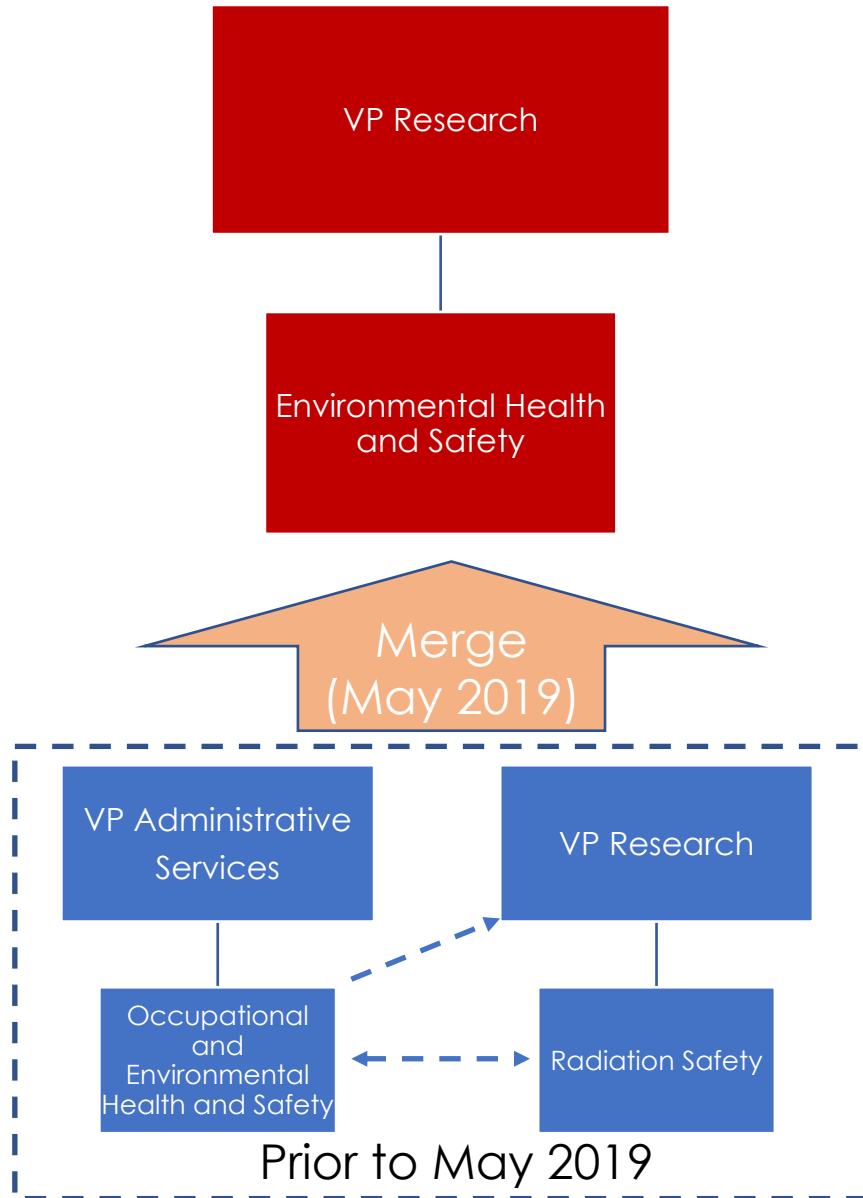
Implement the recommendations provided in:

- APLU report
- UT-Houston Peer Review
- State Audit
- Safety Culture Task Force Report

**The set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes an institution or organization*



Restructuring of Health and Safety Units



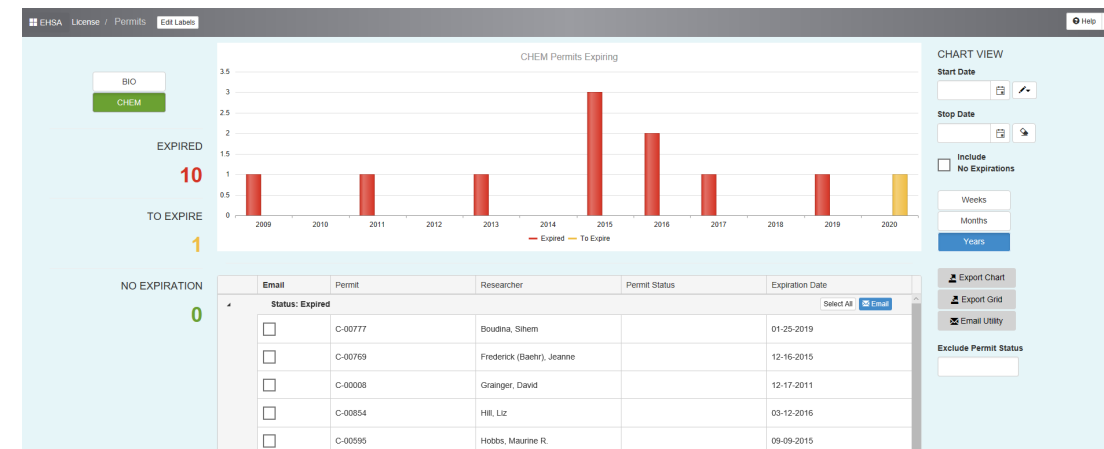
- Formation of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)
 - Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) and Radiation Safety (RS) Offices merged under VP for Research
 - Internal EHS reorganization, including a new Compliance Unit
 - New EHS Executive Director
- Delegation of Authority
 - EHS Director authorized to take all reasonable actions necessary to ensure compliance with University and regulatory health and safety requirements, up to and including shutting down laboratory operations, when justified
 - Laboratories have already been shut down due to health and safety deficiencies

Laboratory Management System

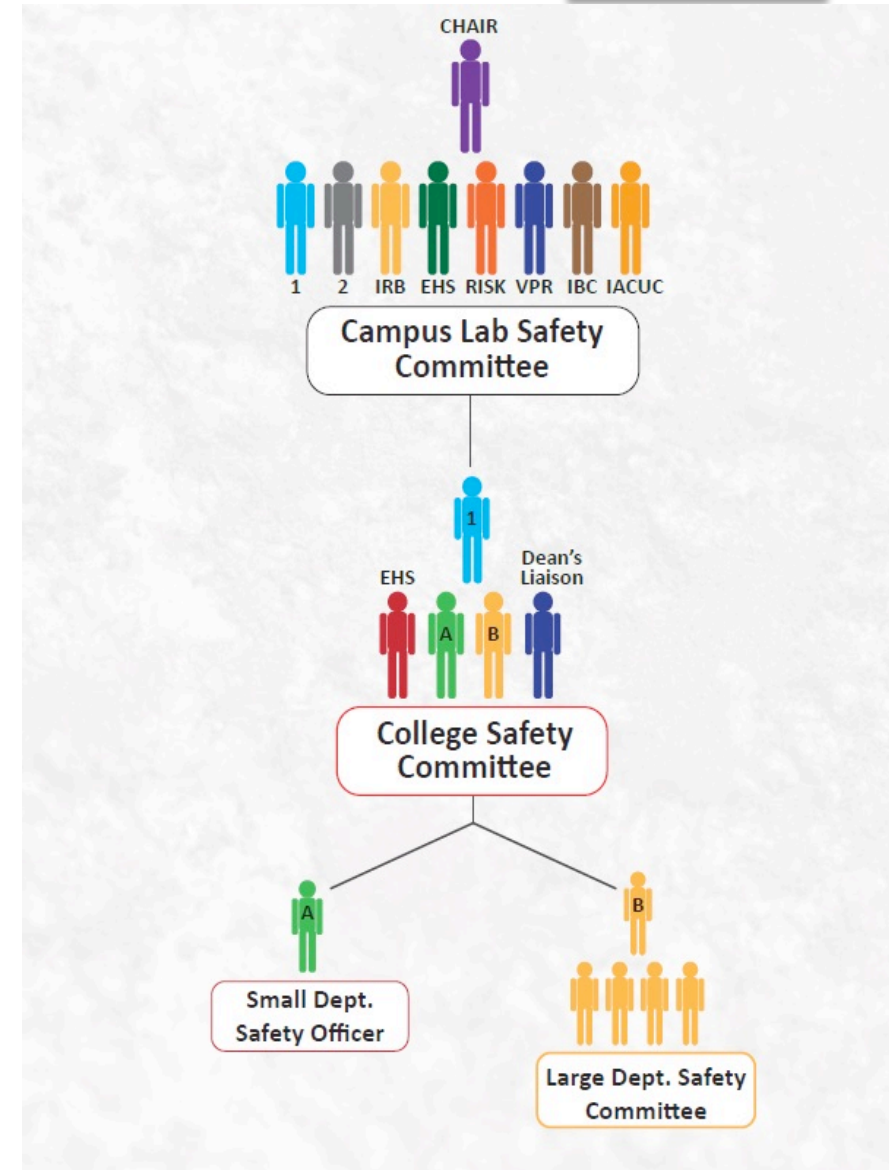


Improved Inspection and Enforcement

- Reduced repeat deficiencies: will improving tracking of deficiencies and effectiveness of corrective actions
- Program: On Site Systems EH&S Assistant
 - Laboratory questionnaires and hazard identification
 - Self-inspection and audit checklists
 - Corrective action tracking
 - Dashboards of key performance indicators
- Mandatory lab registration
- In Beta testing phase
- Full implementation by end of 2019



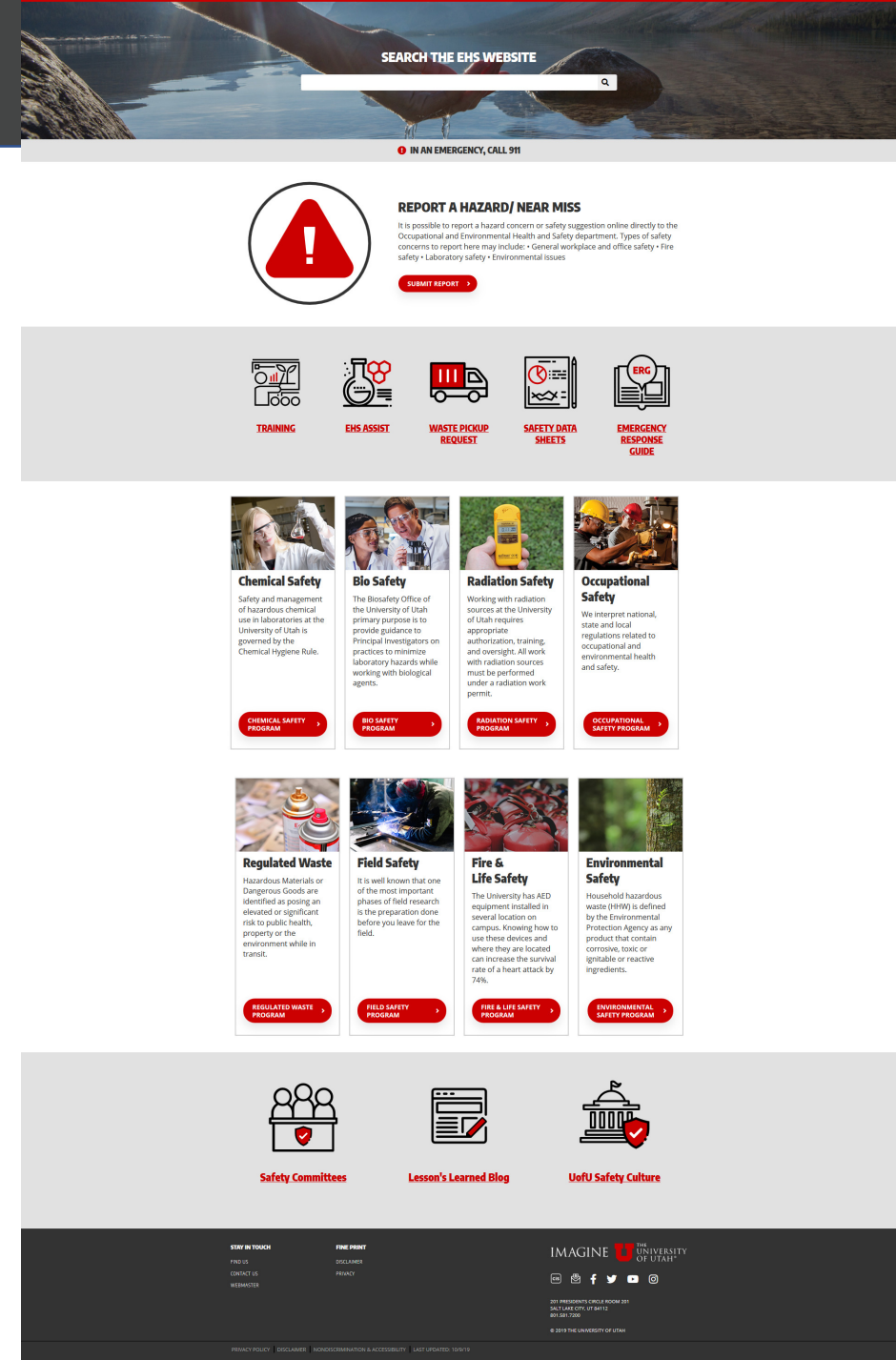
- Established by the Dean, supported by EHS
- Commensurate with College/Department risks and hazards
- Composed of research faculty, staff, and graduate students
- Local subject-matter experts and peers
- Assist with implementation of health and safety requirements, including inspections and verification of corrective actions
- Report up to Campus Health and Safety Committee
- Goal is full implementation by end of 2019



- Development of comprehensive occupational medicine program
 - Blood borne pathogen (hepatitis B) and other vaccinations
 - Respiratory protection program
 - Hearing protection/conservation program
 - Hazardous Chemicals program/surveillance
 - Animal handler allergies/vaccinations
 - Goal is implementation in Spring 2020
- RMCOEH faculty assisting with November 5-6 Safety Symposium

New EHS Web Site

- Easier reporting of concerns
- Improved organization and clarity
 - Program requirements by hazard: Chemical, Biological, Radiation, Occupational, Environmental, Hazardous Waste, Field Safety
 - Expanded document library
- Enhanced Lessons-Learned and incident reports
- Safety Committee Support
 - Departmental contacts, guidance documents, job aids, templates, etc.
- Targeted for November



First College Safety Symposium



- Two day safety symposium; College of Science and College of Mines and Earth Sciences
- Research faculty, staff, and students
- President's welcome
- Dean's message, keynote safety speakers, breakout training sessions, safety committee training
- Safety awards
- Afternoons devoted to laboratory-specific training and self-inspections



You're Invited to the U of U Workplace Safety Event!

Nov. 5th - 6th, 2019
8 am - 3 pm
Alumni House

The University of Utah is committed to the health and safety of all of our students, staff, faculty, and community on campus. As part of the ongoing efforts to ensure safety at the U, the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) is hosting a 2-day Work Place Safety event, including:

- keynote speakers
- breakout training sessions (spaces limited, RSVP for individual sessions)
- meet-and-greet with your EHS expert
- giveaways and more...

Breakfast refreshments and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP and join us for this informative event to learn more on how to keep your workplace and laboratory a safe place for everyone on campus.

Support for Capital and Equipment Needs



- VPR Lab Equipment Fund
 - Cost-sharing opportunity for health and safety equipment through FY20
 - Used to assist with purchase of required equipment
- Proposed capital improvement project
 - Submitted for FY21
 - Addresses known safety deficiencies in HVAC, electrical, chemical storage systems, etc.

Laboratory Health and Safety Equipment Fund **Internal deadline: June 30, 2020**

The Laboratory Health and Safety Equipment Fund (LHSEF) is a limited-time opportunity to obtain funding for laboratory supplies or equipment necessary to address immediate health and safety needs or non-compliance conditions. The fund is intended to address urgent health and safety needs for which funding is not currently available or for which funding was not requested in the FY20 budgeting process. Beyond FY20 it is expected that funding for health and safety equipment would be included in the normal departmental budgeting process, course fees and grant proposals. Up to \$10,000 can be requested in each application. Please see the [info sheet](#) for more details.

Note: This is a rolling award that is available throughout FY20. If equipment is needed, you do not need to wait for the deadline to apply.

[Click here](#) to apply via Infoready.

Culture Changes



- Department of Chemistry
 - Frequent unannounced peer/safety committee/EHS inspections
 - Prescription safety glasses and fire/chemical resistant lab coats supplied by department
 - COS hiring safety coordinator
 - Delivering safety moments at the start of each research seminar
- Health Sciences Cores lab coat initiative
- *University Book Store sold out of lab coats in July in response to increased enforcement*



Questions?